Salty. 19 Augt. N.Y.

My dear Gray -

Having returned to town I take the earliest opportunity of acknowledging your kind letter of the 1st which was forwarded to me at L. Makopac. You may well imagine the surprise & sorrow with which I read your account of the death of our poor friend Oakes - The recollection of him has haunted me ever since, & sometimes I can think of nothing else - He was a warm-hearted fellow, & I regret his loss extremely, without reference to the tragical mode of his end, which is awful in the extreme - I trust (but hardly dare to hope) that he may have left a comfortable provision for his wife & daughter - I was not prepared for so very bad a catastrophe, tho' we both saw & understood the (at times morbid) excitability of his mind - You will probably give a short biographical notice of him in Silliman's Journal - Poor fellow, his last letter to me was very kind - informing me that he had looked out a package of Carices & other plants for me,

which he detained for the purpose of making further additions to it, as soon as I wrote to him what N. E. plants I still needed & of which I accordingly sent him a list (remaining unacknowledged) - He gave me also his own wants, in the Carex way, which I had begun to put by for him, & it is therefore clear that he had not then formed his melancholy resolve - It seems really like a dream to me, when I call to mind the hilarious, excited spirits in which he parted from me in Boston. His last words were - "Well, Carey, I have had so much pleasure, in your society, that I will not believe we are not to meet again"; & so later than last Spring, he wrote me a joyous part of letter, entreating me to spend a month with him! I trust, (but do not venture to expect) that it may appear that he fell overboard accidentally - I have seen no notice of this occasion in the Newspapers - And now, some account of myself which will give pleasure to you, & your dear good little Susie - I spent my time at L. Mahopac in fishing - rowing - & botanizing, & the result is that I am very much better & stronger - The irritability of the bowels which appeared to be bringing me down to the grave, is completely checked, & tho' I could not keep up with you, in a mountain chase, I am yet much improved in strength - Dear Sam, had a severe attack of chills & fever but these yielded to Medicine, & he also is improved in health but far less so, than I could have wished - An unexpected (tho' small) dividend on some property in which I am interested, has determined me to lose sight of my project, for another year, during which time (life & health being spared) something may turn up - I therefore feel settled, for the present, & my mind measurably relieved - I thank you heartily for your kind invitation, & altho' I do not purpose visiting you at present, it may be, that I shall spend a week or so with you, towards Autumn - let me know when you are about ordering Herb. paper, as my plants are not conveniently accessible in their [illegible] state, & I shall be tempted to "go in" for some, with you - & Carey - however little I can afford it - I suppose I shall want some 20 to 25 reams, but have no certain data to guide me

I have a letter from Harney – who says that he has consigned to me (Pr. "Montezuma" – now due) 3 packs of Coulter's Mex.n plants – The most perfect sets he could make out – being for you – the next for me – & some for Olney – When they arrive I will forward your Pr. Express – hoping that I may have the grace & honesty to avoid changing the direction of our respective parcels –

Saml Kneeland remains at C. Bradshaw's for some 3 months longer, but I do not "see" him returning thither – He deeply regrets to be

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I am most sorry to learn that Mr Lovell's foot continues to trouble him, & beg my best respects – Lastly I send as much love to Dear Lady Jane, as you can put into suitable & seemly phrase & am faithfully & affy Yrs. C. Nothing from Torrey!